B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A cam cover gasket comprising:

a generally compliant first material having an upper surface for contact with a cover and a lower surface for contact with an engine head;

a generally rigid bracket frame of a second material connected with said first material; and

a plurality of solenoid actuators positioned by and connected with said second material to control a plurality of rocker arms.

2. (Original) A gasket as described in claim 1, wherein said first material is a polymeric material and said second material is a metal.

3. (Original) A gasket as described in claim 1, wherein said first material includes a first polymeric material and a second polymeric material.

4. (Original) A gasket as described in claim 3, wherein said second polymeric material is an elastomeric material.

5. (Original) A gasket as described in claim 1, wherein said gasket encapsulates wiring utilized to power said solenoid actuator.

6. (Original) A gasket as described in claim 5, wherein said gasket has an external terminal for connection with an electrical connector.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A gasket as described in claim 1, wherein said bracket frame further includes ~~a~~ bracket supports connected with said frame for supporting said solenoid actuators.

9. (Original) A cam cover gasket comprising:

a generally compliant first material having an upper surface for contact with a cover and a lower surface for contact with an engine head;

a generally rigid bracket of a second material connected with said first material;

a fastener sleeve penetrating said first and second materials and being connected with said second material; and

a solenoid actuator connected with said second material having a lever arm for pivotally activating a rocker arm between first and second modes of operation.

10. (Previously presented] An engine, comprising:

a plurality of combustion chambers;

a head with a plurality of passageways fluidly connected with said chambers;

a plurality of valves controlling fluid communication between said chambers and said passageways;

a plurality of rocker arms for activating said valves, said rocker arms having first and second modes of operation of said valves;

a cover enclosing said rocker arms having a surface for mating with said head;

a gasket captured between said cover mating surface and said head; and

a plurality of solenoid actuators for activating said plurality of rocker arms between said first and second modes of operation being positioned by and connected with said gasket.

11. (Previously presented) An engine as described in claim 10, wherein said gasket includes a generally rigid bracket frame for supporting said solenoids.

12. (Previously presented) An engine as described in claim 11, wherein said gasket is fabricated from a generally soft material and a generally rigid material providing said bracket frames.

13. (Original) An engine as described in claim 12, wherein said soft material is a polymeric material and said rigid material is a metal.

14. (Original) An engine as described in claim 13, wherein said soft material includes a first polymeric material and a second polymeric material.

15. (Original) An engine as described in claim 14, wherein said second polymeric material is an elastomeric material.

16. (Previously presented) An engine as described in claim 10, wherein said gasket encapsulates wiring utilized to power said solenoids.

17. (Original) An engine as described in claim 16, wherein said gasket has an external terminal for connection with an electrical connector.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) An engine as described in claim 11, wherein said bracket frame further includes bracket supports connected with said frame for supporting said solenoids.

20. (Currently amended) An engine as described in claim 12, wherein said gasket soft material has a generally C-shape cross-section and said bracket ~~frames have~~ frame has an end captured within said C-shape cross-section.

21. (Previously presented] An engine as described in claim 10, further including a cam shaft for rotating a cam to activate said rocker arms, said cam shaft being rotatively connected on said head.

22. (Currently amended) An engine as described in claim 11, wherein said generally rigid bracket ~~frames are~~ frame is connected to a fastener sleeve.

23. (Currently amended) An engine as described in claim 22, wherein said bracket ~~frames are~~ frame is connected to said fastener sleeve by an interference fit.

24. (Previously presented) An internal combustion engine comprising:

a plurality of combustion chambers;

a head with a plurality of respective passageways fluidly connected with said combustion chambers;

a plurality of valves controlling fluid communication between said respective passageways and said chambers;

a plurality of respective rocker arms for activating said valves, said rocker arms having first and second modes of operation of said valves;

a cover enclosing said rocker arms having a surface for mating with said head;

a gasket captured between said cover mating surface and said head, said gasket being fabricated from a generally soft material and a generally rigid material providing a bracket frame and said gasket encapsulating power supply wiring; and

a plurality of solenoid actuators for activating respective rocker arms between said first and second modes of operation being positioned by and connected with said gasket rigid bracket frames and being powered by said wiring encapsulated within said gasket.

25. (Original) An engine as described in claim 24, wherein said gasket includes fastener sleeves which are fixedly connected with said generally rigid bracket frame.

26. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a portion of an internal combustion engine comprising:

providing a head with a passageway fluidly connected with ~~a~~ combustion chambers and valves controlling fluid communication between said chambers and said passageway;

providing rocker arms for activating said valves, said rocker arms having first and second modes of operation of said valves;

placing a gasket on said head, said gasket having a mating surface for said head and a generally opposite mating surface for a cam cover, said gasket being fabricated from a generally soft material and also having a generally rigid material providing a bracket ~~frames~~ frame, said bracket ~~frames~~ frame being positioned by and connected with solenoid actuators for activating said rocker arms between said first and second modes of operation; and

enclosing said head with a cam cover.

27. (Previously presented) A method as described in claim 26 further including wiring said solenoids by passing a wire enclosed within said gasket between said solenoids and an external portion of said gasket.

28. (Previously presented) A cam cover gasket comprising:

a generally compliant first material having an upper surface for contact with a cover and a lower surface for contact with an engine head;

a generally rigid bracket frame of a second material connected with said first material;

a fastener sleeve penetrating said first and second materials and being connected with said second material; and

a solenoid actuator connected with said second material.

29. (Previously presented) A cam cover gasket comprising:

a generally compliant soft first material having an upper surface for contact with a cover and a lower surface for contact with an engine head;

a generally rigid bracket frame of a second material connected with said first material;

a solenoid actuator connected with said second material; and

wherein said gasket first material has a generally C-shape cross-section and said bracket frame has an end captured in said C-shape cross-section.

30. (Previously presented) An engine, comprising:

a combustion chamber;

a head with a passageway fluidly connected with said chamber;

a valve controlling fluid communication between said chamber and said passageway;

a rocker arm for activating said valve, said rocker arm having first and second modes of operation of said valve;

a cover enclosing said rocker arm having a surface for mating with said head;

a gasket captured between said cover mating surface and said head; and

a solenoid actuator for activating said rocker arm between said first and second modes of operation being connected with said gasket, and wherein said gasket is fabricated from a generally soft material and a generally rigid material forming a bracket frame and said soft material has a C-shape cross-section and said bracket frame has an end captured within said C-shape cross-section.

31. (Currently amended) An engine, comprising:

a combustion chamber;

a head with a passageway fluidly connected with said chamber;

a valve controlling fluid communication between said chamber and said passageway;

a rocker arm for activating said valve, said rocker arm having first and second modes of operation of said valve;

a cover enclosing said rocker arm having a surface for mating with said head;

a gasket captured between said cover mating surface and said head; and

a solenoid actuator for activating said rocker arm between said first and second modes of operation being connected with said gasket, and wherein said gasket includes a generally rigid bracket frame for supporting said solenoid, and said generally rigid bracket is connected to ~~said~~ a fastener sleeve by an interference fit.

32. (Previously presented) An internal combustion engine comprising:

a plurality of combustion chambers;

a head with a plurality of respective passageways fluidly connected with said combustion chambers;

a plurality of valves controlling fluid communication between said respective passageways and said chambers;

a plurality of respective rocker arms for activating said valves, said rocker arms having first and second modes of operation of said valves;

a cover enclosing said rocker arms having a surface for mating with said head;

a gasket captured between said cover mating surface and said head, said gasket being fabricated from a generally soft material and a generally rigid material providing a bracket frame and said gasket encapsulating power supply wiring;

a plurality of solenoid actuators for activating respective rocker arms between said first and second modes of operation being connected with said gasket rigid bracket frames and being powered by said wiring encapsulated within said gasket; and

wherein said gasket includes fastener sleeves which are fixedly connected with said generally rigid bracket frame.